

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

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DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CCO-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P R 291411Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 718

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

:AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 5185

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT : LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP READY FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 9619

1. IN NINE-HOUR WORKING SESSION PRECEDING NOVEMBER 28
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, KEY LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP REPRESENTING ALL ELEMENTS OF PARTY REACHED CONSENSUS ON THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE BASIS OF LABOR ALIGNMENT PLATFORM FOR ELECTIONS (REFTEL).

2. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING WERE SAPRI, EBAN, BAR-LEV, RABINOWITZ, ALMOGI, YADLIN AND BARAM (ALL FROM MAPAI), DAYAN, PERES AND YACOBI (FROM RAFI), ALLON, GALILI, CARMEL AND GEBELBER (FROM AHDUT AVODAH). MRS MEIR JOINED GROUP IN LATE AFTERNOON AT FINAL STAGE OF DRAFTING.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT OF ALL THESE KEY FIGURES TO FOURTEEN POINTS VIRUTALLY GUARANTEES THAT IT WILL BECOME LABOR
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ALIGNMENT ELECTION PLATFORM AND COULD FORM BASIS OF GOI POSITION

AT OPENING OF PEACE CONFERENCE.

4. WHATEVER INTERNAL DIFFERENCES MAY REMAIN, PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS PUT ITSELF ON RECORD AS MAKING PEACE ITS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE AND DECLARING ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO PEACE AGREEMENT BASED ON TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE.

5. LABOR ALIGNMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK TWO KEY DECISIONS LAST EVENING BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITIES: TO GO TO ELECTION AS SCHEDULED DEC. 31 AND NOT TO REOPEN ITS KNESSET CANDIDATURE LIST. AS UNHAPPY AS SOME WITHIN PARTY MAY BE, THESE DECISIONS PRECLUDE SAVAGE INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND ARE A FURTHER EARNEST OF A CLOSING OF THE RANKS FOR THE SAKE OF NEXT MONTH'S PEACE CONFERENCE.

6. LABOR PARTY HAS NOW TAKEN IMPORTANT STEP TO PRESENT UNITED IMAGE TO ELECTORATE AS PARTY OF PEACE, AND SHOW ITS ABILITY TO LEAD COUNTRY INTO PEACE CONFERENCE. LEADERSHIP, OPERATING UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE GENERATED BOTH BY INTERNAL TENSIONS AND CRITICISM FROM OUTSIDE, HAS SHOWN ONCE AGAIN ITS FLEXIBILITY AND APPARENT ABILITY TO CLOSE RANKS IN PERIOD OF CRISIS.

7. THE COMPROMISE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THAT POSITION OF DAYAN, GALILI AND HAWKS WITHIN LABOR PARTY IN WAKE OF OCTOBER WAR, IN OUR JUDGMENT, HAS BEEN WEAKENED WHILE THAT OF MODERATES HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. HOWEVER, COMPROMISE DOCUMENT HAMMERED OUT YESTERDAY INVOLVES SOME INTENTIONAL BLURRING OF POSITIONS TO ALLOW EACH SIDE TO CLAIM IT HAS NOT MADE ANY MAJOR CONCESSIONS. THUS, WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT SHIFT WITHIN LABOR PARTY TO AFFECT MRS MEIR'S PERSONAL INCLINATION TO TAKE HARD LINE ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WITH THIS CAVEAT, WE BELIEVE THAT FOURTEEN POINTS REPRESENT HOPEFUL SIGN OF NEW GOI FLEXIBILITY, UNITY, AND SINCERITY OF INTENT TO MAKE GENUINE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEMAKING EFFORT WHICH LIES AHEAD.
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